



Director Jim Walker



Governor Bob Riley

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For more information
contact Alabama DHS

334-956-7250
or
www.dhs.alabama.gov

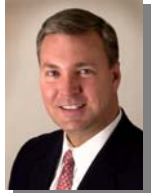
Alabama

DHS QUARTERLY

Message from the Director

Greetings Homeland Security Partners! This is the first edition of a quarterly update published by your Alabama Department of Homeland Security. The purpose of this update is to provide you with project information, upcoming deadlines, and additional homeland security items of interest. If there are other items or issues you want covered in future publications, please let us know.

This is your publication and we want to ensure it assists you in your efforts to serve and support our citizens. We welcome your feedback. Thank you for your continued hard work and support.



Sincerely,

Jim Walker

DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING

The end date for the FY03 grant is December 31, 2005. The end date for the FY04 grant is March 1, 2006. All invoices for these grants are due on these respective dates.

If you anticipate a problem with expending your grant funds, please notify your respective grant manager at AL DHS as soon as possible.

If local jurisdictions are unable to spend their 2003 or 2004 funds, AL DHS will reallocate those funds to other jurisdictions to spend before the grant end date. Guidance published from AL DHS to describe this process was sent out on October 6, 2005.

NIMS SUCCESS

Thanks to your hard work, the Alabama DHS has returned its National Incident Management System (NIMS) Certification letter to the Office for Domestic Preparedness. Please continue to stress the importance of IS 700, and ensure that all first responders in your jurisdiction complete the course. More information on NIMS compliance can be found by accessing the following link on FEMA's website:

http://www.fema.gov/txt/nims/nims_compliance_fy2005.txt

If you have any questions please contact your county's AL DHS grant manger.

CHANGES FOR FY2006

US DHS should publish the grant formula for FY2006 within the next 90 days. The formula for federal homeland security grant dollars will radically change for this grant. It will not be based on population, but on every state's ability to articulate risks, threats, and vulnerabilities consistent with Homeland Security Presidential Directive-8 (HSPD-8).



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ALABAMA RANKS #1

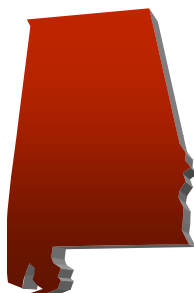
On September 14, 2005, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, announced the grant awardees of phase 2, part 1 of the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). CEDAP assists smaller jurisdictions, not currently assisted by the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), by providing antiterrorism equipment and technology. The awards provide equipment for communications interoperability, information sharing, chemical detection, sensor devices, and personal protective equipment.

Nationally, 483 grants are being awarded. Alabama received 58 grants, considerably more than any other state in the nation. The second highest number of awards was New Jersey with 33, followed by Illinois with 32.

"Alabama has a record of success in pursuing federal homeland security grants. We'll continue our aggressive strategy to help safeguard our state and all its citizens," said Governor Bob Riley.

Alabama Department of Homeland Security Director Jim Walker said, "Leading the nation in the number of CEDAP grants is proof that our Alabama strategy of team building, cooperation, and coordination is paying off to the benefit of our public safety community and the citizens we serve."

In May during phase 1, part 1, Alabama received 16 awards, second only to Washington State, which received 17 awards.



COMMUNICATION IS KEY

To date we have awarded local emergency response and public safety agencies \$13,482,096.13 for interoperable communications projects in the State of Alabama. Of the total amount awarded \$4,456,151.73 has been expended and requested to be reimbursed. We are trying to schedule training in each region of the state. This will be advanced training for communications persons in each county. Please remember this is FY04 funding and must be spent prior to March 1, 2006.

The next phase in the interoperable communications plan for the State of Alabama will be to regionalize communications and then connect communications systems statewide. The regional communications vehicles are being delivered throughout the state. Vehicles have been delivered to regions 5 and 6 with the remaining regions scheduled to be delivered by the end of November. A statewide 9-1-1 vehicle has also been delivered and is scheduled to be ready for deployment within the next month.

BAYOU LA BATRE TOWN HALL MEETING

At the request of Governor Bob Riley, Alabama DHS Director Jim Walker facilitated a town hall meeting in Bayou La Batre on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Representatives from over 12 state agencies, 3 federal agencies and several local agencies answered questions and assisted Alabama residents affected by Hurricane Katrina. The event was attended by over 250 citizens from South Mobile County. The event was held at the Alma Bryant High School Auditorium and lasted about 3 hours.



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OPERATION GOLDEN RULE

As you may know, Governor Riley asked AL DHS to serve as the lead state agency concerning issues relating to Operation Golden Rule (intermediate housing solutions for evacuees.) During the past several weeks, the AL DHS staff has focused on interim housing solutions in the 12-18 month range. Red Cross has continued to work the immediate shelter issues. Reports as of September 30th indicate that we have 284 individuals in shelters, 1925 in interim housing (this figure includes 1325 in state parks and the balance are in other FEMA approved sites), and there are 5630 displaced children in the Alabama school system (K-12) throughout the state.

EXERCISE CANCELLATION

Hurricane Katrina forced the cancellation of Alabama's role in the NORAD/NORTHCOM (N/NC) Exercise Vigilant Shield '06 which is scheduled to take place during the first two weeks of November. Due to the unprecedented response effort at the federal, state and local levels, it was determined by all agencies involved that the resources would not be available to properly conduct the exercise. However, on behalf of the State and local agencies slated to take part in VS-06, the Alabama Department of Homeland Security has requested that Alabama be added to the list of participants for N/NC Exercise Ardent Sentry '06 set for May of next year. We are awaiting approval of this request.

BORDERS, PORTS, AND TRANSPORTATION

Borders: Beginning in October, another 25 Alabama State Troopers will receive training at the ODP facility in Anniston on the enforcement of federal immigration and customs laws and regulations. These troopers will join the initial class of 21 that were authorized by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency in 2004 and who have been making arrests for immigration violations while carrying out their state law enforcement duties.

Ports: The Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA) withstood Hurricane Katrina relatively well. Within days of the hurricane, the port was open and functional, but some port facilities sustained significant damage; particularly, the security system. The newly installed CCTV, cameras and lighting equipment received the brunt of the damage. Port engineers have not yet completed their assessment, but the initial estimate to repair the security items could exceed \$500,000.00. Also unfortunately, the ASPA was not selected to receive funding from the 2005 Port Security Grant program administered by US DHS.

LAW ENFORCEMENT MUTUAL AID TEAMS

The law enforcement agencies in charge of the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid teams are continuing to procure the approved equipment. The team leaders are continuing to recruit team members and conduct training on equipment that has been delivered. Please support the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid team in your region and encourage your jurisdictions officers and deputies to participate in this endeavor.



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BUFFER ZONE PROTECTION PLAN

In June 2005, the Alabama Department of Homeland Security was awarded a \$1.4 million dollar Buffer Zone Protection Plan Program Grant (BZPP) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Protective Security Division (PSD). The purpose of the program is to prevent terrorists from conducting planning activities or launching attacks from the immediate vicinity of Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource (CI/KR) targets. The program is based on the premise that local law enforcement (LLE) agencies and first preventers are on the front lines preventing, defending against, preparing, and mitigating the impacts of potential terrorist attacks. To this end, the BZPP is designed to increase the general protective capacity and preparedness of LLE and first preventers in communities surrounding CI/KR facilities by:

1. Establishing buffer zones around individual assets.
2. Developing Vulnerability Reduction Purchasing Plans (VRPPs) that identify equipment needed by law enforcement agencies to protect these assets effectively.
3. Providing law enforcement agencies with the financial resources necessary to execute approved VRPPs.
4. Verifying and validating that equipment purchases are adequately mitigating vulnerabilities identified in the individual Buffer Zone Protection Plans.

Each of the 28 approved BZPP Sites in Alabama will receive \$50,000 (upon completion and acceptance of the sites completed plan) through the LLE agency.

EQUIPMENT MUST BE MARKED

Alabama Department of Homeland Security has had four types of labels printed by Kilby Correctional Printing. These labels consist of a full color picture of our department seal on a white background with the words "Purchased with Funds Provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security" printed below it. We offer two labels for indoor use. One label is four inches wide by one inch high and the other is five inches wide by six inches high. These two labels are not waterproof, but are crack and peel labels and easy to apply. The two labels we offer for outdoor use measure nine inches by ten inches and thirteen inches by seventeen inches; these labels are resistant to damage from the sun and are waterproof.

If you would like to have any of these labels shipped to you please contact Justin Gray by e-mail or phone at justin.gray@dhs.alabama.gov or 334-956-7261. Please apply these labels to everything purchased with funds provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security if the label will stick to the surface of the item. Please do not order an exorbitant amount of labels that you cannot possibly use, ending in misplaced or wasted labels. Thank you.